



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK...

Happy New Year!

I assumed the helm of the directorship of TSNRP when Lt Col Duong transferred to Hawaii in July for her "hardship" tour. Building upon the great work of the previous TSNRP directors and keeping with the mission to foster excellence in military nursing research I would like to announce a new initiative. TSNRP will be accepting graduate award category proposal applications from 1 October through 30 April each year. This change has been instituted to address the needs of students who are on tight academic schedules

From the Center side of the house, the Regional Research PODS presented several exciting evidence based projects at the 2003 AMSUS conference in San Antonio. Please take a look at the updated TSNRP website for more details about the evidenced based regional research projects. Grant Camp is being held again this year: Session I in late May 2004 and session II in August 2004. Grant Camp has been moved up in response to the needs of the respective services. Applications and further information can be accessed via the TSNRP website.

I look forward to working with you in the upcoming year. Please feel free to call or e-mail with your input, ideas, and suggestions for the program. On behalf of the TSNRP staff and myself we wish you a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Pat Kelley,
CDR NC USN

The secret of science is to ask the right question, and it is the choice of problem more than anything else that marks the man of genius in the scientific world.

Sir Henry Tizard

News From TSNRP.....

SUBMISSION AND REVIEW CHANGES FOR GRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD

Active Duty and Reserve students pursuing a Master's in Nursing or a Doctoral degree may now apply for a TSNRP Graduate Research Award between **1 October and 30 April of each year**. Funding for this award category is capped at \$30,000 in direct costs to support a 1- or 2-year project. *Eligibility, application requirements, and the review process for this award have been revised.* Visit the TSNRP web site for more information at <http://www.usuhs.mil/tsnrp/applying/eligibilityandawards.html>.

From the Grant Specialists . . .

In each newsletter, TSNRP Grant Specialists choose a topic that surfaces in discussions with Principal Investigators and/or grantee organizations. If you have a topic you'd like to see in this column, contact your TSNRP Grants Specialist, or send an email to the TSNRP office at tsnrp@usuhs.mil.

A couple of reminders:

Templates are available on the TSNRP web site (<http://www.usuhs.mil/tsnrp/forms/>) for your use:

- Progress reports
- Requests (change in protocol or key personnel, additional funds, etc)
- Dissemination information
- Equipment disposition
- Final reports

Progress reports are due 90 days no more than 90 calendar days after the anniversary of the start date of the grant. For example, if your grant started on 1 June 2003, your progress report is due by 1 September 2004.

Final reports are due no more than 90 calendar days after the expiration of the grant (*OMB Circular A-110 §. 51 (b) and USU Grant Terms and Conditions*). For example, if your grant ends on 30 April 2004, your progress report would be due by 30 July 2004.

News From the Resource Center

Regional Research Pods Highlight EBP to Take Research Into Nursing Practice

The regional research pods are working on evidence-based practice initiatives. Improved military nursing care is the goal, made possible by use of current evidence to guide practice and clinical decision-making.

COL Cynthia Abbott and Lt Col Theresa Dremsa lead the *southern pod's* initiative at Wilford Hall Medical Center and Brooke Army Medical Center. A clinical practice guideline on the care of patients with ventilator-associated pneumonia was developed in this second phase of the Evidence Base Practice Demonstration Site Project. Col Abbott led the project staff in presenting their experiences at the 2003 Summer Institute on Evidence Based Practice in San Antonio, Texas. Meanwhile, Col Mary Candice Ross and Dr. Rebecca Ryan who lead the *southeastern pod's* initiative provided an overview of EBP and EBP Models to senior nurse executives at Keesler Air Force Base, Eglin Air Force Base, and Pensacola Naval Hospital. It was followed by a workshop on the essentials of EBP by renowned EBP-specialist, Dr. Marita Titler who also launched the *northeast pod's* Evidence-Based Improvement Project with a workshop on the use of the Iowa Model for EBP. LTC Deborah Kenny and CDR Maggie Richard lead this collaborative project between Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the National Naval Medical Center.

Collaboration among nurse scientists in all three services - Army, Navy, and Air Force mark all the Regional Pod projects. In the *southern pod*, it also shows the development of ongoing professional working relationships by researchers, managers, and an interdisciplinary team of clinicians with recognized experts on EBP.

Look for a redistricting of the regional research pods and more information on pod activities on the web site at <http://www.usuhs.mil/tsnrp/rcemn/>

In Science the credit goes to the man who convinces the world, not to the man to whom the idea first occurs.

Sir Francis Darwin
English botanist
and son of Charles Darwin

In the Spotlight...



In this column we spotlight a TSNRP nurse researcher and his/her current study. This issue's spotlight is on CPT Felecia Rivers and her FY02 study, "Identifying Competency Skills of PROFIS Personnel"

By Cathy Kristiansen
Palladian Partners, Inc staff writer

Nurses and other medical support staff sent into combat discover that working in a temporary fabric-walled field hospital is very different from working in a fixed facility back home. If they don't receive enough advance training, the transition can give rise to potentially dangerous mistakes, valuable time lost in on-site training, and a lack of cohesion among the medical team. Concern about lack of training drove CPT Felecia Rivers, R.N., M.S.N., to develop, as part of her masters thesis, an electronic self-evaluation tool that nursing personnel can use to test their readiness for combat work. She is also developing another tool to close potential training gaps.

Using funds from a TSNRP Graduate Research Award in 2002, CPT Rivers tailored an existing competency survey, the Readiness Estimate and Deployability Index (READI), for three nursing positions: registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, and certified nursing assistant. When tested, the three groups showed weaknesses and strengths in similar areas.

"The nurses felt they required more training for skills they would need when they were deployed," CPT Rivers said. "Our nursing population is so young that they aren't trained in the old ways," like completing handwritten charts, taking manual blood pressure readings, gauging heart and pulse rates, and setting up intravenous drips without an automatic drop measure. "They must learn to depend more on what they see, hear, or sense," she said.

CPT Rivers plans to extend her work to create a core competency tool that will ensure that personnel are sufficiently trained before they take the READI test. She said that nurses should be prepared in various ways. On the medical side, they need to know how to handle mass casualties in a set-up hospital, use more traditional medical equipment, be more autonomous in their treatment skills, and work with teams of unfamiliar people. On the soldiering side, they need to know how to take care of and fire a weapon; load an ambulance, a 5-ton truck, and a helicopter; and deal with personal logistics such as family care in their absence. The nurses also need to be prepared for sometimes difficult conditions in the field, including cramped quarters, lack of air-conditioning or

heating, high noise levels, and disrupted sleep.

CPT Rivers couldn't be happier with her career. She's on her second tour of duty in Germany, where she is currently chief nurse at the U.S.



Army's Health Clinic in Kat-terbach. She published her first research paper in 1998 and feels that research "is like a bug under your skin; once it's there, you can't get rid of it." She says the military has been very accommodating as her career has taken various turns, and she is gratified give something back through her findings. The latest recognition of

her work was the 2003 Association of Military Surgeons of the United States Federal Nursing Service Essay Award, given for an essay on competency skills.

CPT Rivers joined the military relatively late, at age 31. The eldest of five children growing up in Montgomery, AL, she had to work while still in high school. Although she dreamed of a military career, others around her said that soldiering was unsuitable for a young lady. Her early jobs were in stores and in factories that produced clothing and auto electronics; later, her sister pushed her to try nursing. While in training, she married a civilian who encouraged her to pursue her military dreams, and then followed her to various postings.

"He has been a wonderful, steadfast person for me," not least when her daughter died 2 years ago, she said. "He is my best friend."

CPT Rivers makes the most of her temporary home in Germany. Before joining the military she had never been on a plane, but she has now worked in and traveled to several countries. She enjoys riding her Honda 1800 Goldwing motorcycle when she can. All in all, CPT Rivers says she's having "way too much fun" to think of retiring from the military and her research work for a long time.

CORRECTION

We inadvertently omitted COL Linda Yoder, one of TSNRP's funded researchers, as the lead author of the article, Peace Making/Keeping Missions: Role of the U.S. Army Nurse, in the June 2003 issue of *Critical Care Nursing Clinics of North America*.

It's a great collection of articles not only about disaster nursing, but about what military nursing is...good info for nurses thinking about a career in the military.



TSNRP PUBLICATION WORKSHOP at Verhonick Nursing Research Course

TSNRP's Resource Center is sponsoring a daylong workshop, "Writing & Revising & Publishing, Oh My!" filled with tips about writing for publication. Held in conjunction with the Army Nurse Corps' 13th Biennial Phyllis J. Verhonick Nursing Research Course in San Antonio, Texas, the workshop will take place at the St. Anthony Hotel on 30 April 2004. Bonnie M. Jennings, DNSc, RN, FAAN, published writer and distinguished researcher, and retired Colonel ANC, will lead the workshop.

The workshop aims to help writers target a journal, identify essential ingredients for successful writing, use information from reviewers to guide revising and resubmitting, and explain how to handle page proofs, editor's questions, and the need for timely response. Concrete examples of manuscripts submitted for publication, revised, and rewritten, and page proofs will be available. For optimal benefit, please bring your manuscript with wide margins for your notes. Individual assistance with manuscripts will be featured in a later Resource Center project.

Participation is open to all Verhonick Nursing Research Course participants. Please sign up for the publication workshop via e-mail to mburcroff@usuhs.mil no later than **30 March 2004**.



TRISERVICE NURSING RESEARCH PROGRAM

4301 Jones Bridge Road
Bethesda, MD 20814
Phone: 301.295.7077
Fax: 301.295.7052
Email: tsnrp@usuhs.mil

Check our website in April for
the FY04-A funding awards!

www.usuhs.mil/tsnrp